



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 9, 2005

Contact: Leslie Luke (858) 565-3490

DEADLINE APPROACHES TO APPLY FOR DISASTER ASSISTANCE *Only One Week Left to Apply for State and Federal Aid*

County of San Diego officials want to remind residents of the **May 16th, 2005 deadline** to apply for state and federal aid to replace losses from the severe storms that occurred Dec. 27, 2004 through Jan.11, 2005.

Individuals and business owners who sustained losses but still have not applied for disaster assistance should do so by calling the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) toll-free application number, **1-800-621-FEMA (3362)**. There is also a special number for those with hearing or speech impairment, **TTY 1-800-462-7585**. Both numbers are operational Monday through Friday only, 8 a.m. – 6 p.m. Pacific Time.

"I strongly encourage residents who suffered damage during the winter storm to tele-register with FEMA for disaster assistance," said Deborah Steffen, director of the County Office of Emergency Services. "My office continues to receive telephone calls from residents with damage who haven't contacted FEMA. The only way to get the federal assistance is to call FEMA and apply for it."

Even if you have insurance, you may still be eligible for disaster assistance for under-insured losses. However, in order to complete an application, FEMA will need the resident's insurance settlement information to avoid any duplication of benefits.

People who have already applied for disaster assistance may call the FEMA Helpline at the same numbers, 1-800-621-FEMA (3362) or TTY 1-800-462-7585, even after the deadline, to check on the status of their application and get additional information.

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